

REMARKS

Claims 10-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been canceled, and claims 10-26 are newly added. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 2 includes allowable subject matter. By the present amendment, the subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into Applicants' new claim 19.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 19, 2005.

As another matter, Applicants note that the Examiner has not yet indicated whether the drawings filed on May 18, 2005 are acceptable. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner confirm the acceptability of the drawings in the next Office communication.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention; rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsutomu et al. (Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2002-042628) in view of Dew (U.S. Patent No. 3,571,770); and rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsutomu et al. in view of Dew, and further in view of Mekelburg (U.S. Patent No. 2,433,703).

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and have submitted new claims 10-26 that are based upon claims 1-9, but which have been prepared to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph issues raised by the Examiner for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 1-9 have been canceled merely to advance prosecution of the present application to issue, and thus, the cancellation of these claims should not be viewed as an acquiescence by Applicants to the propriety of the rejection.

Applicants' independent claim 10 recites an electromagnetic switching device which includes, inter alia, an electromagnetic actuator which includes a solenoid coil, a first yoke disposed at one end of the solenoid coil, a second yoke disposed at another end of the solenoid coil, a movable contact, and two springs disposed between the movable contact and the first yoke. One spring is stronger than the second spring.

Tsutomu et al. is directed towards a contact device in which movable contacts 2b are fixed to ends of a movable contactor 41. An electromagnet device 3 of the contact device includes a guide cylinder 64b which is inserted into a coil 60 and appears to include an upper yoke 64. See Figure 1 and the English language Abstract of Tsutomu.

Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings and the English language Abstract of Tsutomu fail to disclose or suggest that first and second springs are disposed between the movable contactor 41 and the upper yoke 64.

Dew is directed towards a solenoid which includes a conductive cylindrical casing 11. The casing 11 is formed with an internal shoulder 13, against which abuts an annular conductive plate 14. Secured to the plate 14 is a metal pole piece 16. See Figure 1 and col. 1, lines 31-43 of Dew. The solenoid also includes a copper bridging piece 45 which is carried at one end of a push rod 24, such that when the push rod 24 is

moved, the copper bridging piece 45 completes a circuit between heavy duty terminals 41, 42. See Figure 1 and col. 1, lines 60-66 of Dew.

Dew discloses that the push rod 24 is urged by a spring 24a in a direction to disengage the bridging contact 45 from contacts 43, 44 of the terminals 41, 42. See col. 3, lines 1-6 of Dew. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the spring 24a being located between the copper bridging piece 45 and the metal pole piece 16.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dew fails to disclose or suggest that two springs are disposed between the copper bridging piece 45 and the annular conductive plate 14, where one spring is stronger than the other spring.

Mekelburg is directed towards an electric switch having an energizing coil 32, and a magnetic plate 23 located at one end of the energizing coil. See Figure 1 of Mekelburg. The electric switch includes an armature 53, and an extension 63 provided at the end of the armature 53 which supports a movable contact assembly 64. See Figure 1 and col. 3, lines 16-33 of Mekelburg. The electric switch also includes a stationary core member 41 having a recess 42, in which a spring 49 is disposed. See Figure 1 and col. 3, lines 3-4 of Mekelburg. A spring member 73 is also provided upon the extension 63. See Figure 1 and col. 3, lines 47-51 of Mekelburg.

Applicants respectfully submit that Mekelburg's spring 49 and spring member 73 are not disposed between the movable contact assembly 64 and magnetic plate 23, as taught by Applicant's claimed invention. Applicants also submit that Mekelburg fails to disclose or suggest that the spring 49 and spring member 73 have different spring strengths, as taught by Applicant's claimed invention

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied prior art, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an electromagnetic switching device which includes a first yoke disposed at one end of a solenoid coil and having an insertion hole through which a shaft is inserted, with two springs disposed between a movable contact and the first yoke, where one spring is stronger than the other spring, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 10.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' independent claim 10, as well as dependent claims 11-18 which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance, and thus respectfully request the Examiner to allow these claims.

Applicants' independent claim 19 includes the subject matter of claim 2, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Claim 19 recites an electromagnetic switching device which includes, inter alia, an electromagnetic actuator, and a pair of fixed terminals. Each fixed terminal has a fixed contact point at one end thereof. The electromagnetic switching device also includes a movable contact including a pair of movable contact points, an enclosure which encloses the movable contact points and the fixed contact points, a body which surrounds the electromagnetic actuator and the enclosure, and a potting compound which fills a space between the body and the enclosure.

Applicants respectfully submit that the contact devices disclosed by Tsutomu, Dew, and Mekelburg do not include a potting compound, which fills a space between a body surrounding an electromagnetic actuator and an enclosure enclosing movable

P27900.A04

contact points and fixed contact points, as recited in Applicants' claim 19, and previously recited in Applicants' claim 2.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' independent claim 19, as well as dependent claims 20-26 which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance, and thus respectfully request the Examiner to allow these claims.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

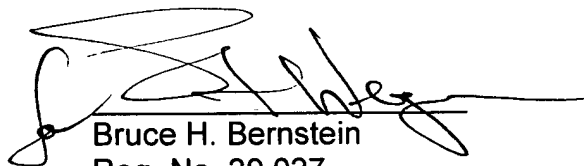
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hideki ENOMOTO et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

June 5, 2006
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191